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Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated June 15, 2005. Only claims 2 and 3 remain for consideration.

1-4. Claim 4 has been cancelled.

5,6. Claims 1, 3 and 5 are rejected as anticipated by Kashiwagi, citing Fig. 1 in paragraphs 18 and 26-28. In paragraph 18, "The pressure control valve 8 regulates the pressure of hydrogen to a predetermined pressure...." Paragraph 26 refers to a "flow rate sensor 13". Fig. 6 shows how the flow rate sensor is used. Fig. 8 shows how a similar flow rate sensor 15 is utilized. Thus, Kashiwagi does not disclose "a remote-sensed pressure sensor which regulates the pressure of reactant gas at said primary inlet in response to the pressure of reactant gas at said reactant gas flow field outlets." Therefore, reexamination and allowance of claim 3 is requested.

7. Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been cancelled.

8,9. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected as obvious over Kashiwagi. The rejection states that "Kashiwagi does not speak directly to the use of a pressure sensor located before the fuel cell stack." Then the rejection alleges that "The pressure sensor as taught is placed after the fuel cell", but there is no such pressure sensor after the fuel cell, only a flow rate sensor 13 is disclosed. That does not have the ability to regulate "the pressure of reactant gas at said primary inlet in response to the pressure of reactant gas at said reactant gas flow field inlets." In fact, Kashiwagi teaches nothing about pressure sensing, and the only pressure regulator is one that drops the high pressure of the tank down to some predetermined low pressure. There is nothing in Kashiwagi which could be rearranged in any fashion to meet the language of claim 2. Therefore, reexamination and allowance of claim 2 over Kashiwagi is requested.

10. Claim 2 is rejected as obvious over Kashiwagi as applied to claim 1 in view of Waldman. The rejection states "Kashiwagi does not speak directly to the use of a pressure sensor before the fuel cell." The controller pressure in Waldman

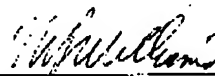
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is at the secondary inlet to an injector, the primary inlet of which is steam. The outlet is connected to a reformer, not to a fuel cell. If one were to adopt the teaching of Waldman, the pressure regulator in Kashiwagi would be placed somewhere between the line 5D or the pump 11 in the secondary inlet to the ejector 6. Such an arrangement would not "regulate the pressure of reactant gas at said primary inlet in response to the pressure reactant gas at said reactant gas flow field inlets" as called for in claim 2. Therefore, reexamination and allowance of claim 2 over Kashiwagi and Waldman is hereby requested.

11. Claims 1-5 are rejected as obvious over Kashiwagi in view of Sugawara. Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been cancelled and there is no explanation of how Kashiwagi and Sugawara render claims 2 and 3 obvious. However, neither Kashiwagi nor Sugawara disclose a remote sensed pressure regulator as called for in claims 2 and 3. Therefore, reexamination and allowance of claims 2 and 3 over Kashiwagi and Sugawara is hereby requested.

Should the foregoing not be persuasive in any way, a telephone interview is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 1, 2005